Fig. 1 shows the results of stimulation of soluble guanylate cyclase by 3-(4-amino-5-cyclopropyl-pyrimidin-2-yl)-1-(2-fluorobenzyl)1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-b]-pyridine (Example 1) in the presence of various NO concentrations.

B1

Fig. 2 shows the effect of 3-(4-amino-5-cyclopropyl-pyrimidin-2-yl)-1-(2-fluorobenzyl)1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-b]-pyridine (Example 1) on the average blood pressure of awake, spontaneously hypertensive rats. "

In the claims:

Please amend claim 6 as shown below:

B2

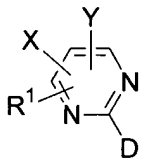
C2 cont

6. (Amended) Process for preparing the compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 1,

characterized in that

depending on the various meanings of the heterocycles listed above are under R^2 and R^3,

(A) compounds of the general formula (II)



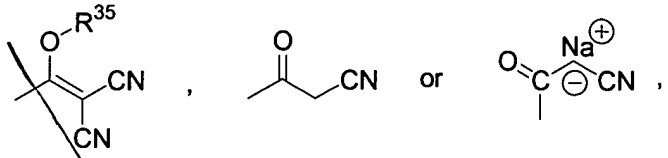
(II),

in which

R^1, X and Y are each as defined above in Claim 1,

and

D represents radicals of the formulae



in which

R^{35} represents C_1-C_4-alkyl

are converted, by reaction with compounds of the general formula (III)

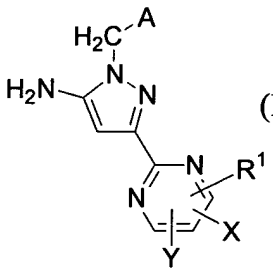


(III),

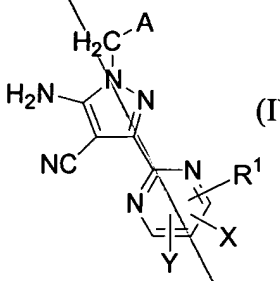
in which

A is as defined above in Claim 1,

in inert solvents into the compounds of the general formula (IV) or (IVa)



(IV) and



(IVa),

in which

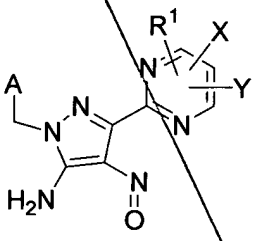
A, X, Y and R^1 are each as defined above in Claim 1,

and, in the case of the compounds of the general formula (IVa), are subsequently cyclized with carboxylic acids, nitriles, formamides or guanidium salts,

and in the case of the compounds of the general formula (IV), are cyclized with 1,3-dicarbonyl derivatives, their salts, tautomers, enol ethers or enamines in the presence of acids

or

(B) in the case that R^2 and R^3 together form a pyrazine ring, compounds of the general formula (IV) are initially converted by nitrosation into the compounds of the general formula (V)

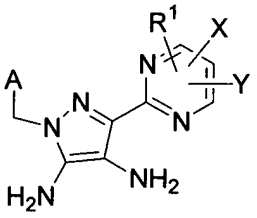


(V),

in which

A, X, Y and R^1 are each as defined above in Claim 1,

in a second step, the compounds of the general formula (VI)



(VI),

in which

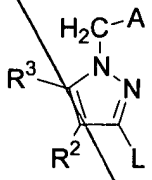
A, X, Y and R^1 are each as defined above in claim 1,

are prepared by a reduction,

and these are subsequently cyclized with 1,2-dicarbonyl compounds,

or

(C) compounds of the general formula (VII)



(VII) ,

in which

A, R^2 and R^3 are each as defined above in Claim 1,

and

L represents a radical of the formula $-SnR^{36}R^{37}R^{38}$, ZnR^{39}, iodine, bromine or triflate,

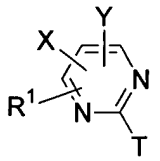
in which

R^{36}, R^{37} and R^{38} are identical or different and each represents straight-chain or branched alkyl having up to 4 carbon atoms

and

R^{39} represents halogen

are reacted with compounds of the general formula (VIII)


(VIII) ,

in which

X, Y and R^1 are each as defined above in Claim 1,

and

in the case that L = $SnR^{36}R^{37}R^{38}$ or ZnR^{39},

T represents triflate or represents halogen,

and,

in the case that L = iodine, bromine or triflate,

T represents a radical of the formula $SnR^{36'}R^{37'}R^{38'}$, $ZnR^{39'}$ or $BR^{40}R^{41}$,

in which

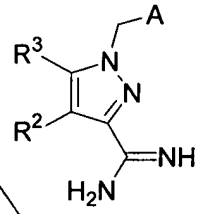
$R^{36'}$, $R^{37'}$, $R^{38'}$ and $R^{39'}$ have the meanings of R^{36}, R^{37}, R^{38} and R^{39} given above in Claim 1 and are identical to or different from them,

R^{40} and R^{41} are identical or different and each represent hydroxyl, aryloxy having 6 to 10 carbon atoms or straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkoxy having in each case up to 5 carbon atoms, or together form a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring

in a palladium-catalyzed reaction in inert solvents,

or

(D) amidines of the general formula (IX)

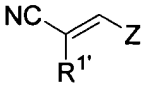


(IX) ,

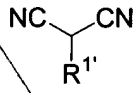
in which

A, R^2 and R^3 are each as defined above in Claim 1,

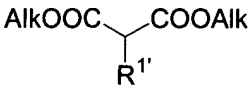
are reacted with compounds of the general formula (X), (Xa), (Xb) or (Xc)



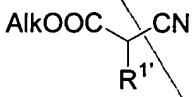
(X)



(Xa)



(Xb)



(Xc)

in which

$R^{1'}$ represents the optionally substituted cycloalkyl radical listed above under R^1,

Alk represents straight-chain or branched alkyl having up to 8 carbon atoms,

and